

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a gamma irradiated crosslinked layer of polymer; and

a non-crosslinked layer of polymer ~~secured~~ molded to said crosslinked layer of polymer.

50. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein said gamma irradiated crosslinked layer of polymer and said non-crosslinked layer of polymer are compression molded to one another.

51. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein both said gamma irradiated crosslinked layer of polymer and said non-crosslinked layer of polymer comprise polyethylene.

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:
said gamma irradiated crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

53. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:

said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein,

and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein

which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

54. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:

said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein,

and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein

which is adapted to be secured to a tibia of a patient.

55. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein said

gamma irradiated crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein.

56. (Currently Amended) An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a first layer of gamma irradiated polymer which is crosslinked to a first degree; and

a second layer of polymer ~~secured~~ molded to said first layer of polymer, said second layer of polymer is crosslinked to a second degree that is different than said first degree.

57. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein said second degree is less than said first degree.

58. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 57, wherein said first layer of gamma irradiated polymer has an articulating surface defined therein.

59. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein said first layer of gamma irradiated polymer and said second layer of polymer are compression molded to one another.

60. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein both said first layer of gamma irradiated polymer and said second layer of polymer comprise polyethylene.

61. (Currently Amended) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:
said first layer of gamma irradiated polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

62. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:
said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

63. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:
said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

64. - 123. (Cancelled)

124. (New) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein the second layer of polymer comprises gamma irradiated polymer.